

REMARKS

Upon entry of the above amendments, Claims 21 and 31 will be amended, and Claims 30 and 40 will be canceled. Claims 21-29 and 31-39 will be pending in the present application. Claims 21 and 31 are independent claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Attorney Docket Number 11922-35832 listed on the April 21, 2005 Final Office Action does not correspond to the Attorney Docket Number 18890.00 set forth in the New Power of Attorney filed December 22, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests correction of the Attorney Docket Number from "11922-35832" to --18890.00--.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. § 116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issues that would require further consideration and/or search as the amendments and arguments presented merely amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) place the application in better form for an appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented as they are in response to new grounds of rejection entered in the Final Rejection. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the Amendment.

Claims 21-29 and 31-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Himmelstein (U.S. Patent Application Number US 2002/0038278).

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication by the Examiner that Claims 30 and 40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In this regard, Applicant has amended independent Claim 21 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 30, and has amended independent Claim 31 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 40. Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments to the claims overcome the rejection, are fully supported by the original disclosure, and introduce no new matter therewith.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 21-29 and 31-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Himmelstein.

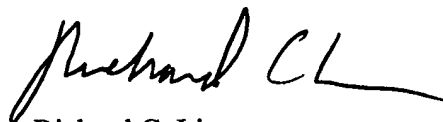
Applicant respectfully submits that the proposed amendments made herein properly respond to the outstanding Final Rejection and represent a *bona fide* effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application. Care has been exercised to insure that no new matter has been introduced and that no new issues have been raised that would require further consideration or search. It is felt that no inordinate amount of time will be required on the part of the Examiner to review and consider this amendment. In the event that the application is not allowed, it is requested that this amendment be entered for purposes of appeal.

Serial No.: 10/003,332
Art Unit: 3621

Docket No. 18890.00
Customer No. 37833

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If such is not the case, the Examiner is requested to kindly contact the undersigned in an effort to satisfactorily conclude the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard C. Litman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

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RCL:tcs